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Prologue

[image]

In the dead of night quiet, to quiet layed an anxious queen, and her small kits...

Snowlily's view
I woke from my sleep feeling the cold air steeping into the nursery. I looked at my 3 kits, Freckledkit, Cloudkit, and Amberkit. I thought their small limbed bodies resembled the mix of my mate and me. Freckledkit took after my mate - Oakfade, who was a chocolate-brown fluffy ragdoll. Cloudkit was like looking into a mini mirror of me and finally Amberkit looked like a mix between us both.

I found the kits totally fascinating in their differing personalities. Freckledkit was quiet and observant, always watching and listening. Cloudkit, the strongest of the three, was always moving trying to emulate us even at such a young age. Amberkit, was quiet and shy, often burying her head into me, never leaving my side.

A cold breeze rolled into the nursery and I curled them up into balls next to me and each other so they would not shiver. As I did this I noticed a shadow move through the camp, followed by 3 more. I was instantly alarmed and worried, but not for long as a paw hit my head knocking me unconscious..

Third person point of view:

3 of the 4 dark cats quickly grabbed the 3 kits as the 4th stood watch over their endevours. This action woke the kits and Amberkit tried to wail her displeasure at being awoken by the three strange cats invading her mother's lair.

The cat who had grabbed her shook her to silence her, but in the process accidentally killed her.
"Shit!" the shadow cat swore silently, dropping the now dead kit.

The cat on watch whispered, "C'mon, it's too dangerous to stick around, let's go before someone wakes up from the Skyclan camp!" and they all ran away.

They ran through the woods of the skyclan, holding the kits in their maws, and onto the moor.

"Thank Starclan, we're on windclan territory now..." said the leader, "But we are not home free yet...let's get home quick before Riverclan or Shadowclan spots us."

Chapter 1

A few moons later

"Freckledkit, Freckledkit! It's Paleflower! She's gonna have kits! We're going to have friends now!" the overexcited Cloudkit mewed to her.

"Cool-" she mewed tiredly back, shivering slightly in her cold den her brother had barged into inconsiderately, waking her from her nap. Realising she could have a legitimate reason to enter the clans Medicine den she continued, "C'mon, let's go see her!"

She knew she was obsessed with the medicine cat den as to her, despite being raised in the Windclan and her only memories were of the Windclan, something felt offly different to her. She wanted to make her brother happy, so she thought that being a medicine cat would answer her erroneous feeling of mistrust, and spur her to being fair to all of the Windclan. She said none of this to anyone, but meekly followed the exuberant Cloudkit in to see Paleflower, the new Windclan queen.

Instead of following Cloudkit and talking with the queen, Freckledkit went over to the ginger and white medicine cat - Maplestripe, who was looking a bit stressed, "Hi Maplestripe" She mewed, "Do you need and help?"

Maplestripe did not answer straight away, perhaps she was thinking her reply, or perhaps she was distracted, "Ah, yes, I do need help delivering these herbs to the elders." she finally answered.

Freckledkit's eyes lit up as she looked at the blue and white flowers the medicine cat had referred to, "Maplestripe, may I ask a question before I do it?" Freckledkit asked looking at the she-cat.

"Sure, ask away," she mewed back.

"May I ask what these herbs are and what do they do?" Frekledkit

asked looking directly into Maplestripes eyes.

"OH! Sure, the herbs are called borage. Borage is used for various things but the main ones are: Milk, fevers, tummy aces and tight chests," the she-cat mewed. Upon hearing what Borage was used for, Freckledkit understood why the elders were taking them. So, she picked up the flowers, nodded 'goodbye' to Maplestripe, and headed off to the elders den.

Upon arriving at the elders den, Freckledkit mewed to them from the dens entrance, "Hello!"

Upon being given permission to enter she was asked, "What is it you have there, young'un?"

"Borage!" she dropped the herb in front of the elders, "Maplestripe asked me to bring it to you."

"Good to know," the old grey cat, with a war stripe over his eye, nodded his thanks.

Cloudkit and Freckledkit left the dens and returned to the nursery as there was little more they could do at that moment in time.

Chapter 2

This accurs 2 days before the kits become apprentices.

It was a moon later when painful wails could be heard from the medicine den as Paleflower was in labour, close to kitting. Cloudkit was trying to distract himself by playing with the apprentices.

Freckledkit knew that she could not stand idly by with how awake she was, so she walked to the medicine den. When she was there she asked calmly, "Hello, do you need any help with the kitting?"

Maplestripe shook her head, "No, but you can get herbs for me." and she proceded to tell her which herbs to get, and Freckledkit calmly carried out the instructions given. As she returned, Paleflower screamed in pain.

"Freckledkit! Good your back! This is it now! I need you to go grab me that stick over there."

The stick was sitting in the sun, almost baking, Freckledkit picked it up and dropped it almost immediately from the shock of its warmth. "This is no good," she thought to herself as she then proceeded to brace herself and take it back in to Maplestripe who immediately gave it to Paleflower to bite down on.

|*Over the next few hours Freckledkit continued to help Maplestripe with the birth, collecting and giving the herbs Maplestripe described from her collection.* |

Finally the kits were born, 3 in all. Freckledkit looked at the tired queen and her new kits. One, for some reason stood out to her, a small black and cream tom kit, who had just been named Steelkit.

Freckledkit was oblivious to everything around her as she looked at the newborn kit, not noticing that Maplestripe was talking to herself musing, "Freckledkit, you are so excited to help aren't you?"

Chapter 3

It was cold in the clearing, but a sudden call could be heard by the leader, Jaguar'star, "Let all cats old enough to catch prey gather beneath Tallrock for a Clan meeting."

All the cats, excluding those too old or too young, gathered around the rock. As Freckledkit and Cloudkit were now of age they were included in the gathering.

"As you know,"the clan leader mewed dramatically, flicking his tail towards the 2 kits, "We have 2 kits ready to be apprentices - Cloudkit and Freckledkit. As is the custom, you two will be given your warrior names and will be apprenticed to competent warriors. Cloudkit, from this day on, until you recieve your warrior name, you will be known as Cloudpaw. Your mentor will be Dappledcoat. May Dappledcoat teach you diligently, and may you learn all she teaches earnestly, so that all she knows is passed onto you."

Dappledcoat walked forward and greeted Cloudpaw by touching noses, as was the custom of the apprentice and mentor joining.

"Freckledkit, from this day on, until you recieve your warrior name," the leader started before he was interrupted by Maplestripe.

"Please excuse my rude interruption, but this can not wait," Maplestripe mewed, "Before you go on, please allow me to speak."

The leader nodded knowing that Medicine cats had this right on occasion, the only ones who would dare interrupt the warrior appointments.

Maplestripe took this opportunity to speak, hoping her request would be accepted, "I'm getting older, and it's time I took on an apprentice, because of this in light of recent events and promise you have shown by helping me numberous times, Freckledkit, I would like you to become my apprentice. Would you accept the position of being my apprentice?"

Freckledkit was beside herself with joy, her wildest dreams were being answered in this moment, but she held in her delight and answered with composure, "Yes! I would love to be your apprentice!"

"It is settled then," purported the leader, "Freckledkit, from this day on Maplestripe will be your master and Freckledpaw will be your name. May Maplestripe teach you diligently and may you learn all she teaches earnestly so all she knows will be passed onto you."

Maplestripe then moved forward and touched her nose to Freckledpaws nose, their mentor apprentice bond sealed.

Half a moon later

Freckledpaw, and Maplestripe, headed to the mothermouth for the annual meeting of medicine cats.

"Who's this?" The sandy coloured siamese skyclan medicine cat called Sandshifter asked Maplestripe.

"OH this is my new apprentice, Freckledpaw." Maplestripe mewed to Sandshifter.

Sandshifter looked at Freckledpaw and seriously inspected her, which came across and a hostile stare to those observing.

"Anyway, let's go inside," Maplestripe mewed looking concerned.

The cats walk in and observe the moonstone, where Maplestripe starts the new apprentice ceremony of the medicine cats "Freckledpaw, is it your wish to enter the mysteries of StarClan as a medicine cat?"

"It is" Freckledpaw mewed her agreement.

"Then come forwards," she mewed before continuing, "Warriors of StarClan, I present you with this apprentice. They have chosen the path of a medicine cat. Grant them your wisdom and insight so that they may understand your ways and heal their Clan in accordance with your will."

Freckledpaw pressed her nose against the cold wet moonstone and fell deep with in sleep where she awoke as seeing a starlike kit.

"Who- who are you?" Freckledpaw asked the small kit.

"I'm your sibling, remember? I'm Amberkit!" The kit mewed almost in distress at being forgotten.

Freckledpaw, unsure of the situation, responded with, "Did you die with our parents- by the badger?"

"No, they have lied to you... listen to me, Windclan is not your friend, they kidnapped us, and they murdered me!" Amberkit mewed worriedly.

Freckledpaw, not believing what she heard, replied back, "Surely not! I've known them my whole life, and if I was kidnapped I believe I would remember..." the dream faded and she awoke in the moonstone looking over to see everyone still asleep except Sandshifter.

"Is it true?" Freckledpaw asked.

"Is what true?" Sandshifter asked hoping to deny everything to the end.

"That my brother and I were kitnapped as babies?"

"Yes, I'm sorry-" she mewed sadly.

Chapter 4

"Where is he?" Freckledpaw mumbled panicking as she had not seen Cloudpaw for a while now. As she searched, she went over to the Apprentice den and saw Steelkit out of his den wide awake,

"What are you doing awake-" she asked the small kit.

"I was thinking of getting some food..." he replied.

"Well it would be better to wait for mealtimes, because if everyone has a piece of prey when they felt like it especially when it's scarce, like it is now, we won't have food " she explained not caring if she might have hurt the small kits feelings, she was tired, but she needed to talk to Cloudpaw.

"Just go back to bed-" she mewed tiredly.
The small kit went sadly back to the nursery and she continued on to look for Cloudpaw. She noticed then that Cloudpaw was in his den asleep, so she nudged him awake.

"Follow me we gotta talk!" she whispered to her brother. The tired Cloudpaw open his eyes and sleepily followed Freckledpaw out the camp.

"Cloudpaw, listen, this isn't our clan- they kitnapped us- they murdered our sibling, they stole us and they're lying to us..." Freckledpaw mewed to Cloudpaw.

Cloudpaw waking up from his sleepy state mewed, " So, you're telling me..., that everything, everyone we thought we knew... is a lie?"

Tears rolled down the pairs eyes as they lamented the now fact that everyone and everything they thought they knew was a lie, all made up by Windclan.

Freckledpaw noticing time had drifted on mewed sadly, "Let's go

back before they notice," and with that the pair sneaked back to camp where they went to their separate dens...

Chapter 5

Freckledpaw worked hard to remember each herb and their properties that the medicine cats used and she now could remember most of them. It had taken her 5 moons and she was proud of her progress as a medical apprentice. Her awkward meeting at night with Steelkit had spurred her on to mend her relationship with him and now they were perhaps friends? It was hard to say as she did not seem to see many cats outside of work, except for her brother Cloudpaw.

"Freckledpaw!" Steelkit squealed running up and jumping onto the busy apprentice, "Guess what!"

"Lemme guess, you are becoming an apprentice?" Freckledpaw guessed looking at the, as yet smaller kit on her back.

Freckledpaw had been aware of the meeting to place the apprentices, but as a apprentice medicine kit she was not required to go. Nursing sick cats took priority over any meeting and she was currently nursing a sick cat.

"That's correct!" He mewed getting off her back, Freckledpaw looked at the small kit, his personality reminded her of Cloudpaw, but ever since the truth came out, Cloudpaw had been acting colder.

"I better go deliver these herbs to the medicine den now," Freckledpaw mewed to the kit picking up the herbs she was gathering, she walked to the medicine den and started to sort them in there respected areas and taking out and damaged herbs.

As she did this, Jaguarstar called a meeting.
"Let all cats old enough to catch prey gather beneath Tallrock for a Clan meeting." Jaguarstar mewed.

When all the cats gathered around the rock, he continued, "It has come to my attention that the gathering is today. The cats

representing us are... Coyotefang, Cicadapelt, Fireflyglow, Nightpounce, Lavendertail, Cloudpaw, CactusSplash, Fallingpaw, Lilysplash, Maplestripe, Freckledpaw and myself. We will leave at sundown, so get some rest."

Jaguarstar then dismissed everyone with his tail.

Freckledpaw and Maplestripe left then to go to the medicine den and upon arriving there started sorting herbs.

"Do you remember what this herb does?" Maplestripe asked holding up a pink flower.

Freckledpaw took a good second to recognise it before replying "Bright eye, it helps cure coughs."

Maplestripe nodded and signaled to get some rest for the gathering.

At sundown

"All cats going to the gathering follow me!" mewed Jaguarstar as he walked out of camp.

The cats who were told to go left with him to go to the gathering clearing. They arrived at the gathering and already it was loud, and big, as most of the clans had already arrived there. All the cats that were there were chatting and hanging out together.

Freckledpaw looked around to see if there were any cats that looked approachable enough to talk to. She had not spotted anyone to talk with when a snow creamy ragdoll walked up to her.

"Hello there, I haven't seen you here before, what's your name?" the she cat mewed do Freckledpaw.

"Oh! My name is Freckledpaw, this is my first gathering-" she mewed her reply to the pretty but mature she-cat.

"Oh, how fascinating. My name is Snowlily" she mewed to Freckledpaw.

"You look like my brother... Cloudpaw, he is around here somewhere." Freckledpaw mewed distractedly looking around for Cloudpaw.

"How interesting," Snowlily mumbled before excusing herself with a wave, "I'm going to go talk to a clanmate, I'll see you later."

Freckledpaw noticed her mentor and walked over to Maplestripe and sat down, just as Jaguarstar called

Chapter 6

The next day

Freckledpaw was sitting in the medicine den treating CactusSplash sprained foot.
"Now you better keep off your paw for a few days, you can start walking on it when Maplestripe or I say so." Freckledpaw mewed to the tom who then walked out of the medicine den. She sighed as she remembered that today was Steelkit's and Cloudpaw'sceremony, She walked out of the medicine den and towards the nursery.

"It's your ceremony today, how do you feel?" Freckledpaw asked the kit who was running towards her.

"I feel great!" Steelkit replied chasing her tail a bit.

"That's good," she mewed letting the kit play with her tail.
While Jaguarstar called out

"Let all cats old enough to catch prey gather beneath Tallrock for a Clan meeting." While all the cats gathered around the rock Freckledpaw and Steelkit walked to the rock together.

"It has come to my attention that a kit and an apprentice are old enough to become apprentices and warriors. May Cloudpaw and Steelkit step up." Jaguarstar mewed as Freckledpaw moved Steelkit forwards with her tail, while Cloudpaw stepped forwards on his own.

"Steelkit, you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Steelpaw. Your mentor will be Dawningflame. I hope Dawningflame will pass down all she knows on to you."
Jaguarstar mewed as Dawningflame nodded and touched noses with Steelpaw.

"I, Jaguarstar, leader of WindClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn. Cloudpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" Jaguarstar mewed to Cloudpaw who was staring at the leader thoughtfully.

"I do," Cloudpaw mewed his response.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Cloudpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Cloudcream. StarClan honors your Skill and speed, and we welcome you as a full warrior of Windclan." Jaguarstar mewed as Cloudcream walked to him and licked his shoulder as Jaguarstar rested his head on Cloudcream. The clan then congratulated Creamcloud and Steelpaw.

Chapter 7

Half a moon later

Freckledpaw and Maplestripe as well as all the other medicine cats gathered around mother mouth to discuss the sicknesses and injuries that's happening within the clans.

As the last medicine cat arrived, Sheepberry the riverclan medicine cat mewed, "I'm so sorry I'm late, something came up in the clan."

The other cats nodded and walked in to the moonstone. Freckledpaw placed her nose on the cold stone, as she drifted to sleep. While she was asleep, she had a vision :- saw 3 darkens shapes 2 kits, a parent and her, the vision swirled and saw a cat walking away from a StarClan creature. The vision swirled onto see a darkness - a cat murdering Maplestripe, then it swirled again to see Jaguarstar exileing the darkened cat. The vision ended with the words.

"A cat of your kin, Betrays the code; murders the one you call mentor, Exile them fast before they kill more."

Freckledpaw awoke from the vision to see everyone awake but Maplestripe. Freckledpaw looked at the sleeping Medicine cat and wondered what the entire prophecy meant.

Chapter 8

The few days after the prophecy was first dreamed, Freckledpaw spent time trying to figure out what the prophecy meant with little result.——————————————————————————
Freckledpaw looked distantly at her tail trying to figure out the prophecy... "A cat of my kin... there's at most 3 alive- but... only Cloudcream knows my mentor-" She thought before realising...

"Wait... where's Maplestripe?" she mewed looking up from her tail, it's the dead of night- and Maplestripe isn't in here in our den... Freckledpaw scrambled up and ran out of camp.

"Shit, shit, shit, where is she?" Freckledpaw meowed looking around.

She ran to the top of Outlook rock and saw Maplestripe and Cloudcream at the spot where a dock was. Freckledpaw ran to them as fast as she could before seeing Cloudcream claw Maplestripe's neck open; blood spurted out everywhere as he snapped her neck. Even though Maplestripe was now dead Cloudcream continued on in his madness and deep anger ripping open her stomach, spilling her guts everywhere.

Freckledpaw stood in shock at seeing him murder Maplestripe in front of her, the blood of Maplestripe continuing to pool until it reached her feet.

Her brother, mewed to the now dead Maplestripe, "I know it was you who kidnapped me."

As Cloudcream had still not noticed her, she mewed to him before running back to the camp, "Brother... What have you done?"

When she arrived back in camp she headed straight to Jaguarstar den, mewing at him in panick, "Jaguarstar!"

"Hhmm?" He mewed sleepily, not really awake.

"It's Cloudcream he murdered Maplestripe!" She yowled, sobbing, tears ran down her face - Cloudcream had murdered her mentor in front of her.

Chapter 9

Freckledpaw sat in her den crying, and traumatised. Steelpaw walked in, as he had seen her upset leaving the clan leaders den and was worried about her. Not knowing the situation, he sat next to her and asked, "Hey, are you okay?" He mewed to the crying Freckledpaw, gently nudging her shoulder with his nose.

"I- I just witnessed my own brother... Murdering my mentor..." She mewed tears continuing to roll down her now wet fur. The two remained in the medicine den; Steelpaw trying to comfort the visibly upset Freckledpaw until Jaguarstar called a meeting, upon which they exited the den to attend it.
Jaguarstar mewed loudly through the dens, as he walked to Tall rock,

"Let all cats old enough to catch prey gather beneath Tallrock for a Clan meeting."
As all the cats gathered around including Freckledpaw and Steelpaw, who sat as far from Cloudcream as possible, the leader meowed,

"I have called you here today to make a sad announcement - Maplestripe, the medicine cat...is dead," the clan gasped and some bowed there head for the fallen clanmate.

"There was a witness to her death." He said looking at Freckledpaw,

"Come on up," he whispered to her.
Freckledpaw stood up and went onto the rock,

"I am... a witness to Maplestripe's death. It is worse than that, however, as I also knew it was going to happen a few days prior... as I received a prophecy from starclan..."

Freckledpaw continued on, ignoring the glares and whispers of her clan mates who were now whispering

"If she knew, why didn't she say anything?"

"The prophecy said *'A cat of your kin, Betrays the code, Murders the one you call mentor, Exile them fast before they kill more...'*" she said reciting the verse.
The whispers changed again to one of understanding,

"Well I would not have understood that either!"

"I only understood what it meant when I saw Maplestripe missing and I went to find her as I was worried because of what the prophecy had said. So, I ran to find-" she choked on her last few words...

"Cloudcream, murdering her..."
She got off the rock and headed towards Steelpaw, where she proceeded to cry into Steelpaws shoulder.

"I think this gives us enough reason to, Exile Cloudcream," Jaguarstar whispered to his deputy,

"By the words of Starclan prophesy, we herby Exile you from windclan, for murder. If we ever see you on our territory again, we will kill you!" Freckledwish decreed, not wanting to kill him outright as he had been a valuable warrior until now. Cloudcream accepted his fate and allowed a few warriors to chase him off the territory.

"Because our medicine cat has died, Freckledpaw as you were Maplestripes apprentice and there are no others, you will be promoted to be the new Medicine cat of Windclan. As of now, your new name shall be Freckledwish. I give you this name as you experienced your mentors death by your own brothers paws, you would certainly would of wished to unsee that, thus the name, Freckledwish!"
The clan cheered then on Freckledwish's name. Freckledwish gave a watery smile and nodded her head before burying it again in Steelpaws shoulder.

Chapter 10

Over the next 2 moons, Freckledwish and Steelpaw would stay together, cloudcream would appear at time...

Freckledwish and Steelpaw where chilling in the medicine den talking when one of the warriors, Leafbelly walked in and mewed "Freckledwish I'm expecting kits!"

She mewed happily, Freckledwish nodded and dismissed them to go to the nursery as the leader called out, "Let all cats old enough to catch prey gather beneath Tallrock for a Clan meeting."

While all the cats gathered around the rock Freckledwish and Steelpaw walked to the rock together.

"It's seems that one cat is old enough to become a warrior, so let's Make them one today," the leader meowed as Steelpaw walked forwards, "I, Jaguarstar, leader of WindClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn. Steelpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" Jaguarstar mewed to Steelpaw as he was staring at the leader.

"I do" Steelpaw mewed in response,

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Steelpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Steelmask. StarClan honors your Skill and speed, and we welcome you as a full warrior of Windclan." Jaguarstar mewed as Steelmask walked to him and licked his shoulder as Jaguarstar rested his head on Steelmask.

The clan cheered Steelmask on while he walked to Freckledwish and rested his head on her shoulder.

Chapter 11

Over the 2 moons of Leafbelly's pregnancy, Leafbelly would often come and visit for check ups and a chat about her kits. Steelmask also would visit regularly as he no longer slept with Freckledwish in her den being classed as an adult warrior cat.

Leafbelly walked in while Steelmask was in the medicine den and asked Freckledwish "Can I talk to you?"

"Sure," Freckledwish mewed her reply and got up to talk with her. Leafbelly upon spying Steelmask became uncomfortable with his presence and meowed at him pointedly,

"Alone.!."

Steelmask nodded and walked out of the den, not at all bothered by Leafbelly rudeness, it was honestly a pretty standard thing for him to experience, so knowing it would take awhile he decided to go hunting to fill in the time.

Leafbelly, fearing her conversation would be overheard, brought Freckledwish to the other side if the medicine den and meowed quietly, "I know you like him."

Freckledwish, expecting to be lectured, meowed defensively, "I know it's wrong but... he's all I have, ever since, you know."

Leafbelly licked Freckledwish's cheek and mewed, "Freckledwish, I understand, I understand your situation all too well. If you ever end up having kits, I'll do everything in my power to support and help you both!"

Freckledwish was stunned by the queens generosity, nodded her thanks and licked her cheek.

The two chatted for awhile before Leafbelly suddenly yowled in pain, "Shit- I wasn't expecting that..." Leafbelly explained huffing

the pain out.

Freckledwish ran out and grabbed the birthing stick and passed it to Leafbelly.

While Freckledwish was getting things, she grabbed some borage, raspberry leaves, and chervil, "Here eat this!" handing the raspberry leaves to the queen. "Now I'll need you to push, the kit is almost through."

The kitten was birthed with bits of the sac and blood all over him, as yet he had not started breathing so Freckledwish licked him triggering the breathing reflex which came out with a small mew.

"Congratulations, its a tom." Freckledwish picked up the kit and passed it to Leafbelly who licked her son as well and nestled him next to her teat before falling asleep exhausted from her labor.

Freckledwish woke the queen temporarily to ensure she ate some borage before letting her rest for the move of new kit and mother to the nursery.

"So, what will you name him?" Freckledwish asked the tired queen as she ate.

"Tornkit..." the Queen mewed before passing out from the big day.

chapter 12

Three moons have passed since Tornkit was born

Five clan warriors stumbled back into camp, two of them were seriously injured. The uninjured cat went to report to the leader what happened while the injured cats hobbled and dragged themselves, with the assistance of two of the less injured cats, to the medicine den.

Upon seeing the severe injuries of the cats, Freckledwish asked as she placed the two warriors on the treatment beds, "What happened?"

"Fox attack, we chased it away but we got injured in the process."

Freckledwish inspected the lesser injured cats and determined they would heal satisfactorily on their own so she flicked her tail to let the non injured warriors out so she could concentrate on the severely injured warriors. As she saw them out, Tornkit was hanging yet again nearby, and seeing the injured warriors as she glanced in she mewed to Freckledwish, "hey- can I help?"

Freckledwish seeing herself in the young Tom nodded and pointed to each of the herbs she needed on the medicine shelf. The small kit took the indicated poppy seeds, cobwebs, moss, chervil and dock leaves, then passed them to Freckledwish.

"Here eat these," she said handing the 2 injured cats poppy seeds to ease their pain.

She quickly chewed up some chervil and dock, placing the juice on 2 separate leaves, pouring the dock on the wounds, then pouring the chervil onto the cobwebs. She then placed the cobwebs to seal up the wounds ensuring that all the juice fell on the wounds and not anywhere else.

While she did this she sent Tornkit off on an errand with moss to

get water, "Tornkit, can you get a warrior to fill this with water?"

The warriors were still uncomfortable so she got down some thyme and honey she found earlier out and gave them to the warriors, "Here, try this, this is designed to help calm you down," she said as the kit returned with the moss.

She took the moss and placed it down in front of the warriors, "If you're thirsty, here is some water."

The warriors nodded before passing out.

Chapter 13

Three moons have passed from the fox incident, the injured warriors recovering with no issues.

Freckledwish, knowing that Tornkit was due to have his apprentice ceremony, went to the leaders den during the day and asked Jaguarstar, "Excuse me, Jaguarstar, I have a request."

Jaguarstar looking up from his nap mewed,
"Yes, sure" then pulled himself up to have a proper conversation.

" Jaguarstar, I would like Tornkit, to be my apprentice. They remind me of myself at their age..." Freckledwish mewed as Jaguarstar nodded.

"You know it is his choice though. Don't you?" She nodded, and left hoping in her heart that she would be accepted.

Freckledwish waited in the cold clearing for the meeting to be called by the leader. Finally it happened, Jaguarstar called all the cats, excluding those too old, too young or too sick.

"Let all cats old enough to catch prey gather beneath Tallrock for a Clan meeting." Jaguarstar paused and waited for everyone to arrive before continuing on, "As you know," the clan leader mewed dramatically, flicking his tail towards the kit, "We have a kit ready to be apprenticed. As is the custom, we must ask the kit if they would like to be a medical kit. Tornkit come forward, would you like to become a medicine kit?"

Tornkit walked forward and nodded, "Yes please! I would love to be a medicine apprentice!"

Jaguarstar nodded, "Alright - Tornkit, from this day on Freckledwish will be your mentor and Tornpaw will be your name. May Freckledwish teach you diligently and may you learn all she teaches earnestly so all she knows will be passed onto you."

Freckledwish then moved forward and touched her nose to Tornpaws nose, their mentor apprentice bond sealed.

Half a moon later

Tornpaw, Freckledwish, headed to the mothermouth for the annual meeting of medicine cats.

"Let's go inside," Freckledwish mewed. The cats walk in and observe the moonstone.

"Wow, its beautiful!" exclaimed Tornpaw upon seeing the stone for the first time.

"Shh," mewed Freckledwish and Tornpaw fell silent.

The medicine cats formed a circle and Freckledwish starts the new medical cat apprentice ceremony since it was her apprentice, "Tornpaw, is it your wish to enter the mysteries of StarClan as a medicine cat?"

"It is," Tornpaw mewed his agreement.

"Then come forwards," she mewed and waited till he came, before continuing,

"Warriors of StarClan, I present you with this apprentice. They have chosen the path of a medicine cat. Grant them your wisdom and insight so that they may understand your ways and heal their Clan in accordance with your will."

Chapter 14

2 moons have passed since Tornpaw went to the mothermouth to become a medicine cat apprentice. For an apprentice he's learning well, however, is sometimes forgetful of the correct treatments.

"Tornpaw! Remember, Borage is for nursing queens, fevers, tummy aces and tight chests," lectured Freckledwish exasperated at his forgetfulness.

Freckledwish was currently holding the blue flowers in her mouth, and decided to hold a mini quiz,

"Now yarrow is the one you never hold in your mouth, do you know why?"

"Because it's used to make people vomit because of the taste," Tornpaw mewed as he sorted the herbs by taking out some of the damaged leaves. Steelmask walked in with a thorn in his left front footpad.

Freckledwish seeing that it was Steelmask took the opportunity to teach Tornpaw how to do it as she trusted Steelmask to speak up if something was wrong with Tornpaw's methods, as although he was not a medical cat he had been present for several procedures when he was keeping Freckledwish company after the death of Maplestripe,

"Okay, Tornpaw I'll let you deal with Steelmask injury."

Freckledwish took over the sorting herbs as Tornpaw went over to the now sitting Steelmask.

Tornpaw mewed at Steelmask, "Lift your paw please."

Steelmask nodded and lifted his paw. Tornpaw inspected the injury before holding his paw in place and carefully removing the thorn from his pad. He then grabbed some dock leaves and chewed it up

and poured it in the hole the thorn had left. He grabbed some cobwebs and placed it on the pad.

"Make sure you keep off it for a while till it fully heals" Tornpaw instructed.
Steelmask nodded and thanked him before walking out.

chaper 15

WARNING: this chapter contains gore

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2 moons later.

Freckledwish was poking around the medicine cat den, it was quite late and night and Tornpaw was still not back from the errand that should have ended ages ago. Freckledwish worried then, so she went out to search for him as things seemed off. The feeling only got worse the more she searched. Eventually she found her brother Cloudcream standing over her poor apprentices body.

"No, no, no... Not again-" she mewed running over, skidding to a stop as she saw Tornpaw's entire face missing and blood pouring out onto the ground. Freckledwish horrified by the sight of this, she yowled,
"Cloudcream! Why?!? He did nothing to you..." and although she had yowled this it was too incoherent for Cloudcream to understand.

Freckledwish, now angry with her brother looked him dead in the eye and meowed, "You always do this, YOU MURDER anyone I call family! I just got over Maplestripe death and you do this to my new family!"

Freckledwish felt a sad angry rage build up in her and she found herself running towards Cloudcream and tackling him to the ground with a single knock, "I hate you, I hate you, I HATE YOU!" she meowed repetitively before blindly attacking his neck with her claws.

When she came to her senses she stopped and got off him.

"See, your just like me!" Cloudcream mewed licking his injured neck.

"I'm nothing like you! I'M NOT KILLING FOR NO REASON AND

YOU ARE STILL ALIVE!" She mewed to the tom in front of her. Still upset, she looked down at her now bloody paws and mewed furiously, and succinctly, containing her murderous rage, "Leave... you have ruined my life already, just leave me alone."

Cloudcream looked at his sister, and seeing her shake with both rage and grief, walked away, the tears rolling down her face disturbing him somewhat. When Cloudcream had gone, Freckledwish bent down to the poor apprentices body and yowled her grief next to it.

chapter 16

FreckledWish sat in her den tears rolling down her face, another death by her brothers hand, which was extremely traumatizing. SteelMask walked in, his heart squeezed with compassion seeing Freckledwish sobbing her eyes out, so he sat down next to the crying she-cat.

"Shh, it's not your fault." He whispered pressing his fur against hers and licking her tears.

"Everyone seems to die whether it be mentor or apprentice, SteelMask... I've seen so much death, I don't know what I've done to make StarClan punish me like this," FreckledWish continued crying, pushing her face into his fur.

They cuddle together for a while when Leafbelly walks in and sits next to the two.

"May I join the comfort squad?" She asked sitting beside FreckledWish.

The three sat and comforting each other. Although SteelMask wasn't as affected by Tornpaw's death, he reminisced the good times with them. Strangely enough, the cheerful reminiscing comforted the pair who were grieving.

Chapter 17

Over the next few moons, Steelmask, Freckledwish, and Leafbelly would hang out and talk. Leafbelly, in this time, got the distinct impression that Steelmask and Freckledwish had fallen in love with each other as they were always touching each other in some way. She did not say anything to them though, choosing instead to let them discover it for themselves.

Freckledwish was sitting in her den sleepily as she had not slept well the night before when Steelmask walked in.

Her heart leapt at the sight of him, but for some reason he seemed abrupt in his manor, "We need to talk," he mewed curtly before walking straight out.

Freckledwish, somewhat startled by his abrupt appearance and exit, felt somewhat anxious about the whole situation, she mewed after him,

"In a second I need someone to look after the den." She walked out of her den and spotted Leafbelly by the prey pile,

"Hey! Leafbelly, can you look after my den?" Freckledwish called out to the she-cat.

"Oh um, sure?" She mewed coming over to Freckledwish, "May I ask why?" She mewed when she got to Freckledwish.

"Steelmask wants to talk with me. I am assuming he wants to ask me out of camp alone since he has gone already," she nodded to the direction Steelmask had gone, and he could be seen swishing his tail nervously on the edge of the camp.

Leafbelly nodded and went into the den, "I hope things are settled between them," the romantic cat thought turning to watch Freckledwish walk to Steelmask before turning back to settle into the den to wait for injured cats to show up.

"How about we collect some herbs while we talk" Steelmask suggested awkwardly when Freckledwish arrived at where he was waiting for her.

Freckledwish nodded and initially they wandered almost a bit aimlessly looking for the herbs needed for the medical den.

Freckledwish remembered then that she needed cobwebs so she signaled with her tail to go down the tunnel leading the gorge.

The two walked down the tunnel fur touching in the cramped space, as they got to the bottom of the tunnel where either was no longer cramped Steelmask whispered to himself, "This is my opportunity."

Freckledwish was intently grabbing cobwebs when it seemed to her she was propositioned by Steelmask out of nowhere, causing her to look at him.

"Freckledwish, I know it's wrong but... I think I love you-" he confessed, blushing furiously, "Its just that... you have always been there for me, your beautiful, smart and-" he was cut off as Freckledwish pressed her head against his.

"Listen to me, I know this love is wrong but... you have also been for me through all the times I've seen someone die, you have been there for me. Steelmask... I love you too." She whispered to the tom, tears of joy running down her face in relief at his confession, a burden lifted off her as she was afraid he was going to end their friendship over her obvious affection to him.

Chapter 18

1 moon has passed since Steelmask and Freckledwish confessed to each other, since then the two were often seen together grooming each other's fur affectionately.

The gathering of the clans was upon them once again and Jaguarstar had organised who would go to the gathering the day before. Leafbelly was staying behind while Freckledwish and Steelmask was going to the gathering.

"Steelmask, we going to the gathering now!" Freckledwish mewed as she walked out of the medicine den with Steelmask.

Leafbelly waved goodbye to the two cats wishing them a safe journey. Jaguarstar led the patrol, once the two cats had joined the patrol, then to the four tree. Upon entering the clearing Freckledwish immediately ran to where the medicine cats were. Steelmasks heart ached a little as he could not join her there so he contented himself with watching her from a distance.

"Where's skyclan?" Freckledwish asked the other medicine cats as soon as she got to them.

"Don't know-" Sheepberry mewed, stopping as she noticed Skyclan walking in.

As they observed, a familiar cat was walking with them, one Freckledwish had hoped not to see. To her surprise as Skyclan spread out Cloudcream settled himself on the deputy's rock.

"Isn't that... Why is he..." Freckledwish thought looking at Cloudcream.

"Thank starclan; you're finally here, let's start the gathering" the ThunderClan leader mewed looking at Skyclan.

"I'll go first, Windclan is going well, prey is running well" Jaguarstar

mewed flicking his tail towards Scourchedstar to indicate he had finished speaking.

"Shadowclan is going well, some injured cats, that's all." Scourchedstar mewed nodding at Raccoonstar to report on their clan.

"ThunderClan is also well, some sicknesses, but that's all." Raccoonstar mewed before looking at the new leader on the rock. Oakstar stepped up,

"As you can see Skyclan's old leader has passed away. My name is Oakstar and my new deputy is Cloudcream. Despite these changes Skyclan is going well."

The other clans cheered for the new leader and deputy. Windclan, however, was silent, all the cats within the clan looked concerned at the news that Cloudcream was the new deputy of Skyclan, a known murderer.

chapter 19

3 moons have passed since the gathering. Steelmask and Freckledwish were now sleeping together openly. Freckledwish started to notice that she was getting tired quicker and she's also was a lot bigger.

Freckledwish was walking to her den feeling overly heavy, sluggish and forever hungry, only to be sick as soon as she ate. She sat by the prey pile, eyeing it off while she decided whether or not to try eating something, when one of the warriors meowed, rather rudely too, "it looks like your getting fat, maybe you should cut back on eating the prey."

Freckledwish ignored the comment as she knew how much trouble she had keeping anything down. She looked down and finally put all the symptoms together that she had been experiencing.

Just then, she saw Steelmask and Leafbelly coming back from patrol, "Hey! Can I see you two in my den?" Freckledwish called out to them and headed for the medicine cat den.

When Leafbelly and Steelmask entered, Freckledwish invited them to sit down in the sideden to ensure more privacy from the clan. They nodded and when they had all settled down, Steelmask seeing some dirt on his fur decided to start cleaning himself, Freckledwish mewed her news

"guys- i- I think I'm expecting kits..."

Steelmask stopped what he was doing and blushed, it was clear to everyone in that room who exactly the father was.

Leafbelly was not at all concerned about his embarrassment, but instead was both happy and concerned for the couple, so she mewed her question, "That's amazing but- how are we going to get the kits out- without the clan knowing?"

Freckledwish knew that this would be a problem, and as she was

thinking of what they could do Steelmask came up with the solution meowing, "We could always go on a Starclan trip, as you are due to have one, and come back after the kits are born and say that we found then on the trip."

Freckledwish and Leafbelly looked at him, nodding, "That is a good idea."

Chapter 20

Over the next few days, Steelmask, Freckledleaf and Leafbelly planned out their trip to birth the kits safely.

"So the plan is birth the kits in the barn then abandon them. I will then come along and rescue them with Steelmask so that the clans don't know that you're the mother of these kits" Leafbelly mewed looking at the much larger bump.

"I need to go today- other wise it will be to late, I'll keep some herbs on me." Freckledwish mewed grabbing various herbs.

As she was walking out her den, she decided to go to the leaders den and inform them of her Starclan trip.

"Jaguarstar," Freckledwish mewed as the tom sat up from his nap.

"I'm going on a starclan trip, so I won't be at camp for a few days." Jaguarstar nodded and flicked his tail, saying, "Sure, its about time you took one, just make sure you bring a warrior with you," Jaguarstar then spied Steelmask, who was just 'happening' to walk past, in the hopes he would be seen and ordered to go on the trip. Luckily it worked Jaguarstar saw Steelmask and called out to him and ordered.

"Steelmask, Freckledwish is going on a starclan journey. Go with her and protect her."

Steelmask nodded, "Yes, sir, I'll get my things," and went with a smile to get them.

Not long afterwards, the two left camp and headed to the the abandoned barn where they could have some privacy.

When the two reached the barn, Freckledwish mewed, "come on, a little further till we can rest, we don't want to be here yet. We want to be in a day's distance from all the clans."

Steelmask nodded as the two cats continued on their way.

chapter 21

WARNING: this chapter contains birth

Over the next few days Freckledwish and Steelmask prepared a temporary den a day away from all the clans. Freckledwish walked around the temporary den, resting and eating herbs as she needed it.

"I hope that this is far enough away. It should be," Freckledwish worried as a sharp pain enters her body, causing her to gasp.

"Don't worry. We are," Steelmask comforted his tired queen, again.

"You should rest-" he mewed lying down so she could rest on him like a pillow.

Freckledwish appreciated his gesture and lay down on him just as a really big pain hit.

"Steelmask- no time to mess around now- their coming..." Freckledwish mewed getting up and looking at the herbs they had gathered for this - the Borage, raspberry leaves, and a stick.

"Give me the stick and raspberry leaves," Freckledwish instructed Steelmask as she breathed through one of her birthing pains.

Steelmask shakily gave her the requested herbs. Freckledwish ate the raspberry leaves and instantly she felt a lot less pain. She felt another wave of pain coming so she bit down on the stick each time the birthing pains came. After a while 3 kits popped out - one, two, three. Steelmask nipped their umbilical cords and licked their chests to encourage them to breathe.

"Congratulations dear, we have 2 toms, and 1 she-kit," Steelmask mewed licking Freckledwish's cheek.

"I'd like to name the she-kit Amberkit, after my sibling who didn't get to experience life. You can name the other two," Freckledwish

mewed to Steelmask, and waited for him to say their names.

"Whisperkit, and Leapingkit." Steelmask mewed as Freckledwish closed her eyes listening to their voices and breathing.

She could only hear 3 cats and kits breathing... there should be 5!

"Steelmask their not breathing..." Freckledwish panicked looking at the still bodies.

"No, no, NO... Starclan please don't take them from me... you took everything else from me- don't take my kits-" she cried looking at the 2 still kits with dead eyes.

"Freckledwish I'm sorry... they're dead-" Steelmask mewed struggling to stay calm, for her, but grief hit them both equally hard, tears falling down as they bowed their head to remember the short life of the two kits.

Epilogue

Amberkit looked around the full nursery playing with her 2 brothers as the queens watched. The two queens looked at each other worriedly, there was something wrong with her play. It did not look like the play of a single kit.

"Amberkit who you playing with?" Steelmask asked causing the kit to look up in surprise from her play.

Steelmask was the tom who "found" her and her siblings with Freckledwish.

"I'm playing with my siblings silly!" Amberkit squealed happily as Whisperkit jumped on her tail.

Steelmask frowned, concerned as he remembered the conversation he had with Maplestripe before she died about the kits of a medicine cat. He hurried out of the nursery and went towards the medicine den, to talk with Freckledwish. As he went to enter, a ginger and white she-cat walked out.

Amberkit observed the toms odd behaviour and mewed to her siblings, "Hey- why does everyone look concerned?"

Amberkit looked at her paws thinking it over, but she could not think of anything that could possibly be a problem so she mewed, "Probably nothing!" before going back to play with her siblings.